

AB 2802 – Early Childhood Education Credential Program, Grades K-2

Assemblymember Fran Pavley

IN BRIEF

Establishes an optional early childhood education credential for teachers in grades kindergarten through two. This reform will ensure that teachers receive targeted instruction on childhood development during their training.

THE ISSUE

Under California's teacher credential system, educators who teach 8th graders receive the same instruction as those who teach kindergarteners.

Legislation is needed to provide targeted early childhood development instruction to those educators who will be teaching young students. The skills necessary to successfully teach young students differs greatly from the skills necessary to teach middle school students.

EXISTING LAW

Requires the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) to provide general subject teaching credentials for teachers in kindergarten to grade eight.

THE SOLUTION

AB 2802 requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to establish an optional early childhood education (ECE) credential for kindergarten and grades 1 and 2 that is to be built into the existing multiple subject teaching credential. The ECE credential would consist of 24 units of early learning training – 12 units from undergraduate work which could include a community college and 12 units incorporated into the multiple subject credential coursework. The bill specifies that these units of early learning training are to be built into the existing

multiple subject teaching credential program and are not to add more units to that program.

BACKGROUND

The CTC was created in 1970 with the responsibility of ensuring excellence in education by establishing high standards for the preparation and licensing of public school educators.

In fiscal year 2003-04 the CTC granted approximately 239,000 teacher and administrator credentials and renewals. In addition to its licensing responsibility, the CTC develops program standards to address the quality of the programs that accredited colleges and universities provide to prospective teachers.

The CTC's other duties include adopting credential exams, accrediting colleges and universities that meet program standards, operating teacher development programs designed to help prospective teachers complete the requirements needed for a credential, and reviewing allegations of misconduct against credential holders or applicants.

SUPPORT

Los Angeles Unified School District, Early Childhood Education Division, California State PTA, California Federation of Teachers, California Teachers Association

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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